

# Ganci Gazette

Vol. 5, No. 9

376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan

March 3, 2007

## Fighting fires together again

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
376th AEW Public Affairs



Since the establishment of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Fire Department here over five years ago, the Airmen have worked side-by-side with the firefighters of the Manas International Airport.

With each new Air Expeditionary Force rotation every four months, a new crew of Airmen arrives and every new rotation, the Kyrgyz fire fighters of the MIA have been right there training with them.

Air Force fire departments are required to have mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments, said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Krowpman, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Fire Chief.

"If there was an emergency that was overwhelming or outside our scope of capability, they would be able to help us or we help them," said Sergeant Krowpman.

Before they begin training with their host country counterparts, the members of the rotation must first train to work as one.

"We are represented by six different units that have never actually worked together," Sergeant Krowpman said. "We do our own in-house training to become a cohesive unit first and then we start our training with the mutual-aid companies, so we can become one big group and know what's going on together."

This past week, AEF 5/6 firefighters began the first of three planned exercises with the MIA firefighters.

See **FIRE** Page 3

*Staff Sgt. Vincent Anselmo, 376th AEW fire fighter, hands a fire hose to Stas Suleymanov, a fire fighter with the Manas International Airport. In this exercise, the Kyrgyz fire truck will receive water pumped from the 376th AEW coalition fire truck.*

## Airmen share heritage with Kyrgyz students

By Capt. Tim Wade  
376th AEW Public Affairs

Airmen from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing visited two schools in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on Wednesday to discuss their African-American heritage and share their life experiences with about 150 students.

Maj. Travis Edwards, a 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron pilot, and Capt. Ryaja Johnson-Rhone, the 376th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander, volunteered to assist the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek with its annual Black History Month presentations at a law academy and dance

See **HERITAGE** Page 9



*Maj. Travis Edwards, a 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron pilot, explains to Kyrgyz law students about his views on African-American history and culture at a cultural presentation designed to coincide with the celebration of Black History month in the United States.*

Photo by 1st Lt. Isaac Hipple

# People often ask me...

**By Maj. Robert Reed**  
376th AEW CAG

People often ask me, even my kids, "what does the CAG or Commander's Action Group do?"

It is not a simple answer, but it basically boils down to - whatever the commander needs done. Right now, it is to spread the word on our Force Protection posture and Operations Security.

The CAG runs the wing survey program, so I read every one of your comments and I hear things like, "Why can't we be treated like adults on Off Base Requests", "This place is no more dangerous than places back home", "No one explains why we implement higher FP measures."

The leadership here at Manas is concerned about your safety. One of our main goals is to, "Return every Airman home safely, with honor."

Few people know why we increase security measures and why they need to stay that way to protect the sources and the process.

When you see a shift in our force protection posture it is normally a response to credible intelligence which indicates a risk to our Airmen, either on- or off-base.

First step will normally be to shut off OBRs.

No one wants to have to explain to a mother, father, wife, husband, or child why we did not take the necessary

precautions to better protect their loved one.

If it is credible, we will flex our FP muscle, and each and every one of you will have a role to play.

If you see something out of the ordinary or someone not complying with a measure, fix it on the spot or report it if you cannot.

The OBR process and complaints about it are generally seen in the surveys. All things considered, the process is as painless as it can be right now while ensuring your safety.

Take a look at your Leave and Earning Statement every month. It states you are receiving Hostile Fire Pay and stationed in a designated combat zone.

Certain liberties are given up in these areas. There are people who want to do you harm in our area of operation.

They are few and far between, but the loss of one Liberando is an unacceptable loss.

Rewrite the question on the initial survey to read, "If I were wing commander the day after a fatality in downtown Bishkek, I would..." Would you wait for that day?

I think not.

Lastly, a parting shot on OPSEC - it is every single Airman's responsibility.

There are a lot of old war movies out there based on true events which show how even small bits of information can be pieced together to give a good picture of an operation.

Let's make it hard as hell for anyone to gather those pieces of information on our Critical Information List.

Imagine this, a cell phone call is intercepted with details about a C-17 flight from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, parking on Oscar 33, arriving Thursday at 1200 local.

Another intercepted call says Major Jones is on a flight arriving Thursday around 1200.

Then Major Jones calls via the Defense Switch Network announcing himself as exec to General Smith and wants to double check the lodging arrangements for the general this week.

Now, it is quite simple to ascertain that General Smith will arrive at noon on Thursday on a C-17 from Ramstein, parking spot Oscar 33--a piece of Critical Information we would not like shared.

This is basic intelligence-gathering stuff. Assume anything you say on a call outside Manas, whether DSN or on a cell phone is being intercepted. Assume any emails sent to non-af.mil account are being intercepted. Think before you speak/type on those three "high-risk" means of communication and we will help ensure the safety and security of Manas operations. You cannot safely talk around the subject. Contact the folks in FP, 441-2550/441-2551, if you have any questions about items on the CIL.

## 376th AEW Scorecard: Supporting the Warfighter

PAX & Cargo		Fuel		
Missions	49	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Receivers</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
		25	80	166,615
Cargo (tons)	2,158,300	<u>Strike</u>	<u>TIC</u>	<u>SOF</u>
		3	0	1
Passengers	1728			

*These numbers represent the 376 AEW mission numbers over the last seven days.*

### LEGEND

Sorties - # of fuel missions launched from Manas

Receivers - total # of aircraft fueled

Gallons - total fuel delivered

Strike - # fueled aircraft that carried out a ground strike

TIC - # fueled aircraft that supported troops in contact

SOF - # fueled aircraft that carried out a show of force

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The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Have a story idea? Call us at 476-2700 or e-mail: [ganci.gazette@maab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:ganci.gazette@maab.centaf.af.mil).

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[www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/ganci.pdf](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/ganci.pdf)





FIRE from front page



MIA firefighter Stas Suleymanov demonstrates the use of the water canon using water pumped from an 376th AEW fire truck.

The scenario was the same for both days of training – respond to an aircraft fire on the flightline, practice hooking up the Kyrgyz and Coalition trucks with hoses. One object of the exercise is for the MIA truck to supply the Air Force truck with water.

“If it’s a ground emergency it’s going to be on the flight line or the parking area,” Sergeant Krowpman said. “A lot of those areas do have hydrants, but they could be several hundred feet away. The crash trucks usually don’t carry a lot of hose on them.”

“Those hydrants several hundred feet away could be a mile a way, and it wouldn’t matter,” said Sergeant Krowpman. “If you do have that much hose then there is a lot of friction loss that goes with those hoses pushing the water from the hydrant to the truck. You won’t get the volume of water you need.”

For other types of emergencies, response training is practiced in case a plane crashes off the runway where there are no hydrants, he said. “These trucks will bring the water to you rather than worrying about hose lines.”

The Airmen appreciate working with the host nationals.

“The Kyrgyz Fire Department was very knowledgeable,” said Staff Sgt. Vincent Anselmo, a 376th AEW fire fighter. “I would call them the resident experts as far as Manas Air Base goes.”

“They seem pretty used to working with us,” Sergeant Anselmo said. “They knew exactly what we needed. They hooked right up. They just said ‘adapter’ and it worked very smoothly, they knew exactly what they needed to do and they did it.”

The Kyrgyz fire fighters appreciate working with the Airmen also.

“We can always rely on their help,” said Leonid Suleymanov, 4th Shift Leader, MIA Fire Dept. “We have to work together and give help to each other.”

The effectiveness of the joint training between the departments was aptly demonstrated last September, when the two fire companies came together to put out an aircraft fire.

“The two departments did an excel-

lent job by not letting the fire extend further into the plane,” Sergeant Krowpman said. “The past training that was done between the two departments paid off.”

The continuous training with each rotation does not grow old for the MIA team.

“We definitely learn from each other,” said Suleymanov, a 30-year veteran fire fighter. “We learn new techniques and teamwork.”

“Sometimes we have a language barrier but professionally we are similar,” Suleymanov said.

Sergeant Krowpman agrees.

“We all pretty much do business the same way,” he said. “We put the wet stuff on the red stuff.”



Monday’s exercise participants gather together.

## VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE 1 GEOGRAPHY LESSON

"The students were very interested in the fact that I grew up in a town smaller than Manas Village and here I am in Kyrgyzstan," said Master Sgt. Steve Myers. "They were impressed that I drive the 4000 kilometer round trip between Tampa, Fla., and Attica, Ind., every summer to visit family."

Sergeant Myers, 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, teaches geography as part of his volunteer work at Atbashynskaya School #2, in Manas Village on Feb. 24.

Photo by Maj. Scott Suckow



## WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

### Senior Aiman Phillip Sweet 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

**Duty Title:** Heavy Weapons Gunner

**Home Station:** 4th Security Forces Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

**Favorite thing about being at Manas:** Learning about the interesting culture of the Kyrgyz people and a new language.

**Favorite aspect of the job:** The ability to protect so many U.S. and coalition personnel as well as work with Kyrgyz Airport Security. There is a lot of gratification in knowing everything we do here at Manas helps those who are forward deployed.

**First thing he will do when returning home:** Spend time with my wife and daughter.

**Favorite aspect of his job: Outstanding attributes:** He looks for better ways to accomplish the mission without compromising the quality of the security he provides. He takes the initiative, requires little to no supervision and settles for nothing less than excellence in the performance of his duties.

- Master Sgt. Michael Russell

**Duty Title:** Response Force Member

**Home Station:** 55th Security Forces Squadron, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

**Favorite thing about being at Manas:** I love snow and the cold weather. The additional money I make while I'm deployed when I return home.

**Favorite aspect of his job:** Helping the Air Force succeed in the War on Terror.

**First thing to do when returning home:** Take inventory of my life and start working harder towards my goals.

**Outstanding attributes:** He is a one of a kind individual when it comes to performing his duties as a Security Forces member. He handles his duties with a smile and always looks for better ways to do things. He also took on the challenge of completing his Career Development Course and scored an outstanding 93 percent on his end of course exam. I am very proud of what he has accomplished and every Airman should aspire to be like him. - Tech. Sgt. Chad Eagle



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

### Airman 1st Class Christopher Moore 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron





Information and photo courtesy [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)

## Women's History Month Spotlight

### JACQUELINE "JACKIE" COCHRAN

Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran was a leading aviatrix who promoted an independent Air Force and was the director of women's flying training for the Women's Army Air Force Service Pilots program during World War II.

She held more speed, altitude and distance records than any other male or female pilot in aviation history at the time of her death Aug. 10, 1980.

She recruited more than 1,000 Women's Army Air Force Service Pilots and supervised their training and service until they were disbanded in 1944.

More than 25,000 applied for training, 1,830 were accepted and 1,074 made it through a very tough program to graduation.

These women flew approximately 60 million miles for the Army Air Force with only 38 fatalities, or about 1 for every 16,000 hours flown.

Cochran was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for services to her country during World War II.

## SHIRT POCKET

*Brought to you by the Manas First Sergeants Council  
"Bad news is not like wine, it does not get better with time."*

As many are near the end of their rotation one question in particular keeps being asked.

**Q: I have been hearing that I have to out process to leave here but don't know where to start?**

**A:** Out-processing is a simple task. Once you have a confirmed departure day, you must create an out-processing checklist. To do this, go to the Manas Home Page, and on the right side under Hot Items, click on Virtual Out-Processing. From there, click on Register New User and follow the instructions. Don't wait until the day before your scheduled departure.

**Q: Are the gray coats that I have seen some people on base wearing authorized?**

**A:** Yes, the coat is actually the replacement for the old hooded extreme cold weather parka.

**Q: What is the standard for zipping and buttoning my Gortex jacket?**

**A:** Great question! Several MAJCOMs have adopted different standards for this, but here at Manas we use the Air Force standard specified in AFI 36-2903, table 2-6, item 1, which states that clothing must be, "neat, clean, pressed, proper fit, in good condition, zipped, snapped or buttoned." So to answer your question, the Gortex, field jacket, or parka must be zipped and buttoned to the top when worn.

**Submissions:** Email your questions to your First Sergeant and we will answer it in the Shirt Pocket.



## Commander's Action Line

What would you ask Col. Joel "Scott" Reese if you had the chance to ask anything? The Commander's Action Line is your opportunity to get that question answered. Simply send an e-mail with subject line "Commander's Forum" to: [376aew.cal@maab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:376aew.cal@maab.centaf.af.mil).

The commander will provide a response via e-mail for most issues.

Members are encouraged to work issues through their chain of command or appropriate agency prior to using the forum.

## Experiencing Kyrgyzstan: Women's Day

By Ms. Maya Melnikovskaya  
376th AEW Interpreter

International Women's Day began when German socialist Clara Zetkin, head of the International Women's Secretariat of the Communist International in Europe, and Bolshevik feminist Alexandra Kollontai, persuaded communist leader Vladimir Lenin to make it an official holiday in the Soviet Union.

It was still a working day until May 8, 1965, when by decree of the U.S.S.R. Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, International Women's Day was declared a day off "in commemoration of outstanding merits of the Soviet women in communistic construction, in the defense of their Motherland during the Great Patriotic War, their heroism and selflessness at the front and in rear, and also marking the big contribution of women to strengthening friendship between peoples and struggle for the peace."

In today's Russia, Kyrgyzstan and other countries which celebrate it, International Women's Day has nothing to do with socialism or the feminist movement.

Now, women enjoy being taken care of by their men and children on this day.

It is kind of a combination of St. Valentine's Day, a recent tradition, and Mother's Day, which we do not have here.

March Eighth is a wonderful day of womanhood, love, flowers and indulgence.



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

*Giving flowers is a very popular way to celebrate Women's Day*

The day, also, became a symbol of spring's arrival as it is the first spring holiday in Kyrgyzstan.

To this day, it is an official holiday, which both men and women here look forward to having off. Even though for everyone, it often becomes a headache to find the right gifts for their loved ones.

It is also looked upon as a day to celebrate the unconditional love, sacrifice, patience, wisdom, and beauty of the local women.

The holiday is primarily based on men's demonstration of appreciation toward the women in their lives - mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc., women of all ages also exchange gifts and flowers as well.

The obligatory present is flowers, especially freesias, mimosas, daffodils, and tulips which symbolize the arrival of spring.

The revenue generated by the three-day sale of the flowers can help florists make it through the year. Other traditional gifts include perfumes and other items women use to keep themselves beautiful. If you do not want to get in trouble, do not give your woman kitchen utensils for this holiday!

Keep in mind, March Eighth is not a St. Valentine's Day for lovers to celebrate in private. It is absolutely natural in our country to give a party for family and friends on this day.

The most important thing on March, 8th is to show how much you care. Fresh flowers, a box of chocolates, an unexpected dinner in a restaurant or a self-cooked dinner will make this day something special. Just help women in their housework or other boring day-to-day duties. Do those things yourself and let women take a break and relax on their special day.



### Briefing the future lawyers of Kyrgyzstan

Col. Jeff Barnson, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, briefs students from a Bishkek Law Academy on the chain of command structure here on March 1.

The students visited base facilities and a static display of a C-17 Globemaster III as part of a cultural awareness tour.

Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel



# Liberandos history: The Ploesti Raid

By Steve Larsen

U. S. CENTAF Forward Historian

When Airmen deploy to contingency operations, many tend to hold their allegiances to their respective home wings.

The usual questions new teammates ask each other is often, "What base are you from?" or, "What's your home wing?"

In all truth, the answer they give is always incorrect.

"I am from the 31st Fighter Wing," or, "I'm from Fairchild," is usually what you hear.

Once at their deployed location however, Airmen belong to their respective deployed wing. For the Airmen assigned to Manas, that wing is one of Air Force legend.

The 376th Air Expeditionary Wing holds a strong lineage dating to World War II. Formed as the 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on Oct. 19, 1942, the Army Air Force activated the unit in Palestine 19 days later on Oct. 31.

During the course of World War II the 376th served in three different numbered Air Forces; the Ninth, the Twelfth and later Fifteenth.

From 1942 until the war ended in 1945, the 376th provided instrumental support to combat operations from Libya to Germany, Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

Using B-24 Liberators (Hence the wing's motto *Liberandos*), the 376th began operations immediately upon activation flying bombing missions in North Africa and Sicily in support of then Major General George S. Patton and British Field Marshall Bernard Law Montgomery as they rolled through Africa on their way to the Italian Peninsula.

The unit's contributions in that campaign earned it the first of three Distinguished Unit Citations (akin to today's Presidential Unit Citation).

The unit earned its second DUC for actions in a single mission.

This mission also flew the unit into Air Force legend; the bombing of the Ploesti Oil Refineries during Operation TIDAL WAVE.

This operation was one of the most daring air raids of World War II. On 1 August 1943, B-24 units from the 8AF



Courtesy photo

*B-24 Liberator flies over the Ploesti Oil Refineries*

and 9AF, 177 Liberators in all with over 1700 Airmen on board struck Ploesti, Romania, in a low-level bombing at altitudes as low as a few hundred feet off the ground.

Flying through balloons designed to impede them and over 230 "triple-A" guns the bomb groups assigned to fly this mission flew into a quagmire.

The 376th met with particularly difficult problems.

Losing the bomber providing lead navigation, the group's bombers turned off from the initial target and had to redirect to make the bombing run.

By the time they arrived, other waves of bombers already passed through and the element of surprise lost.

Acrid black smoke, clouded the sky dropping visibility to near zero. The crews flew on and finished the mission.

Of the 177 B-24s that flew on Ploesti, 54 planes went down and only a sixth of those that returned home remained flyable.

Roughly 60 percent of the refineries capability was knocked out at least temporarily. By the following year, 1944, subsequent bombings closed the operation for good.

The Ploesti raid holds the distinction of being the most heavily decorated single military action in American history.

Five Airmen received the Medal of Honor, three of them posthumously. At least six Distinguished Service Crosses (equal to the Air Force Cross) went to raid members including then 376th commander, Col. K. K. Compton who led the entire raid.

The group inactivated in 1948 but did not stay dormant for long.

On 1 June 1951 the 376th reactivated as the 376th Bombardment Wing (Medium) flying B-29s and later B-47s.

Through a number of deactivations and reactivations the wing continued in service to the country earning along the way the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and 10 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards; three of which received the "V" valor device, most recently in 2005 during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Today's Liberandos carry well the lineage and legacy of their predecessors.

When asked again on your tour "What unit are you from?," what will you say?

# Giving blood: The gift of life

By Senior Airman Jolene Getz  
376th Expeditionary Medical Group

What if the worst happened? What if a true mass casualty occurred here at Manas impacting dozens of personnel? One badly injured patient could require the entire blood supply on hand, then what?

The time to build a comprehensive plan is when the threat is low. In preparation for this worst case scenario, the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group is developing a list of "first-line volunteer donors." This would consist of 30 individuals who could be called on immediately in the case of a critical blood shortage. These individuals will have their blood type and Rh factors re-validated and will be placed on a stand by list.

Interested volunteers must:

- be accessible on short notice
- not be scheduled to rotate home until April/May '07
- not be in "mission critical" jobs such as air crew and first responders in case of a mass casualty on base.

Some of you may be asking, "I know my blood type – why do they want to check it again?" There is a small error rate for what is recorded on your dog tags, ID, medical record, and, believe it or not, in the human memory. In an emergency



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Counts

Senior Airman Jolene Getz demonstrates drawing blood from a donor.

situation, whole units of blood would be transferred directly from donor to patient. So while the error rate may be very small, the consequences are life threatening if blood types don't match.

If you are interested in being a "first line volunteer donor," contact Senior Airman Jolene Getz at the Medical Group at [jolene.getz@maab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:jolene.getz@maab.centaf.af.mil). She will discuss your eligibility and schedule you to have your blood drawn and typed.

## Delaying the Taxman: File an extension

By the 376th AEW Judge Advocate

As a service member deployed during the income tax season, certain questions may arise. Here is some information that will help you prepare for the 2006 tax season.

Income tax season is Jan. 1 thru April 15. During this time, you will be filing your tax returns for the previous calendar year—2006. In addition, some states require their residents to pay income tax and file state tax returns.

Military members deployed to a combat zone, such as Manas Air Base, have a few options for filing their Federal taxes. As a military member serving in a CZ, you will receive an automatic 180-day extension in addition to any days missed during the filing season when filing your Federal tax return.

This extension begins on the day when you leave the combat zone or the last day of continued hospitalization for an injury sustained in a CZ.

Neither deployed members nor spouses at home are required to file an extension request with the IRS to take advantage of the filing extension.

For example; if you arrive in a CZ



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nethaniel

*Taxes got you frustrated? File an extension!*

on Jan. 1 and depart on April 1, your 180 day extension will begin on April 1 - plus you are entitled to the 90 days of the filing season you missed during your tour in the CZ. This gives you a total of 270 days to file your taxes from when you depart the CZ.

It should be noted that some states also grant an automatic 180 day extension to file your state returns, while other states require you to either request an extension in writing or file your tax returns during the tax season.

A second option is to give a trusted individual the authority to file your taxes for you. This can be done by granting a Power of Attorney to the individual and allowing them to sign your name on the tax form. Please remember if you have a spouse filing a joint tax

return they will also need a POA. The IRS also has their own version of a POA specifically for filing Federal taxes: IRS Form 2848.

You can locate this document on the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf>. Many states recognize the validity of the IRS Form 2848, and all states recognize a POA. You can get a POA by stopping by the Base Legal Office in the Wing Headquarters building Monday – Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon.

If you are unable to stop by during these hours, you may schedule an appointment by calling 441-2312.

When filing your federal taxes during the 180-day extension period, don't forget to write "COMBAT ZONE" and the location you were deployed to on the top right hand corner of your tax forms.

A final option is Turbo Tax, which is being offered at no cost by the Department of Defense. For more information please go to [www.militaryonesource.com/](http://www.militaryonesource.com/)

Unfortunately, due to manning restraints your legal team at Manas AB is unable to provide tax return services.



**HERITAGE** from front page — academy and dance school.

The purpose of the visits was to coincide with the celebration of Black History month in the United States and expose the students to individuals of the heritage and culture. The students were encouraged to ask any question they could think of to the Airmen. Questions focused on topics such as the existence of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, the acceptance of interracial marriages in the U.S, unequal pay based on race or gender, treatment in the workplace, favorite artistic impression, the American style of dance and musical celebrities.

The Airmen enjoyed the interaction with the students.

"I felt the students were very accepting, respectful, and interested in who we were and what we had to say," said Captain Johnson-Rhone, deployed from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"I think their questions attest to the fact that all humans, regardless of race, religion, and economic status, want to be judged on their abilities not prejudged because of their ethnicity."

"The younger students seemed focused on the fundamentals; they were more curious about African-American culture and used their experiences to relate, for example to music and dance," said Major Edwards, a deployed KC-135 pilot from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. "They were just like American kids, full of life and energy. It was definitely the highlight of the trip!"

The Airmen were humbled by the fact



Photo by 1st Lt. Isaac Hipple

*Capt. Ryaja Johnson-Rhone, 376th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander, poses for pictures with students of a dance choreography school in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.*

that they were the first people of African descent that some of the students had encountered.

"It was a humbling experience, definitely something you rarely think of as an American," said Major Edwards. "It is important that we as Americans recognize how far our culture travels and transcends ethnicity. The only downside is not having the ability to continue to nurture the positive bond that was formed with this outreach program. The great thing about it is we can change that negative impression to a positive by simply spending some time with these young people who will enhance their cultural experience as well as ours."

"I did not realize we were the first African Americans the (some) students

have ever interacted with in their lives," said Captain Johnson-Rhone. "My hope is that we presented ourselves in a manner that left the students with a lasting positive impression of African Americans and Americans in general."

The Air Force has roughly over 340,000 active duty personnel. Of those personnel, nearly 15 percent identified themselves as African-American or Black according to Air Force Personnel Website. It is in line with African-American representation in the U.S. population of about 13 percent.

The Kyrgyz Republic population is estimated at just over five million people with African ethnicity not registering as a group.



## VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE 2 DENTAL HYGIENE

"On Saturday, it was my pleasure to teach our local school children on the correct way to take care of their teeth," said Dr. (Maj.) Brent Havey. "Some of the children had never seen the correct way to brush their teeth, others had not seen dental floss. I am enthused and encouraged with the interest these children showed at wanting to learn about their oral health."

Doctor Havey, 376th Expeditionary Medical Group, instructs proper dental care as part of his volunteer work at Atbashynskaya School #2, in Manas Village on Feb. 24.

Photo by Maj. Scott Suckow



*Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel*

## Faster than the eye can follow

Staff Sgt. Richard Ramsey and Staff Sgt. James Weaver, both with the 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, spend some down time at Pete's Place playing foosball.

## Wings of Hope Chapel

*For more information, contact the Chapel at 441-2307/2308*

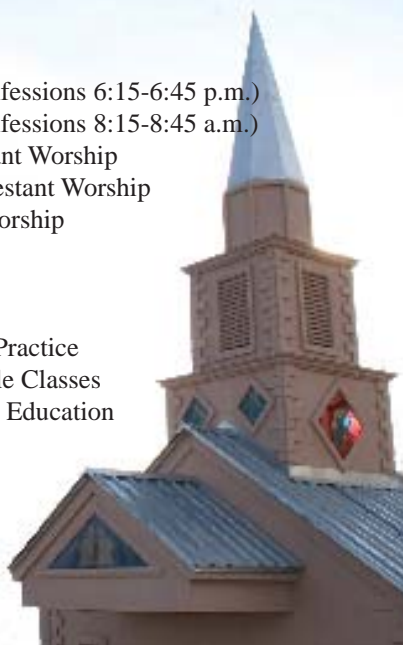
### Worship Services

Mon-Fri: 7 p.m.	Catholic Mass
Saturday: 7 p.m.	Catholic Mass (Confessions 6:15-6:45 p.m.)
Sunday: 9 a.m.	Catholic Mass (Confessions 8:15-8:45 a.m.)
10:15 a.m.	Traditional Protestant Worship
11 a.m.	Contemporary Protestant Worship
12:30 p.m.	Latter-day Saints Worship
7:30 p.m.	Gospel

### Weekly Studies

Tuesday: 7:45 p.m.	Gospel Choir Practice
Wednesday: 7:45 p.m.	Protestant Bible Classes
Thursday: 7:45 p.m.	Catholic Adult Education

*\*All services are subject to change after publication.*



### MANAS AIR BASE

News & Info PUBLIC WEB SITE

<http://www.manas.afnews.af.mil/>

### DO NOT SPRING FORWARD

There will be no Daylight Savings Time in effect for Kyrgyzstan and the rest of Central Asia on March 11.

Do not set your clocks forward.  
Do not pass go.  
Do not collect 200 dollars.  
Do, however, note that your calls home will be one hour different  
Unless you are calling Hawaii.  
Plan accordingly.